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REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Starting in March 1955, the service operated jointly by the "Atlas Levante Linie" and the "Argo Nah-Ost Linie" will be extended to Bulgarian and Rumanian ports, with regular monthly stops at Burgas and Constanta.

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2. Entrance to the port of Stalin (formerly Varna) is allowed only to Soviet and Satellite ships. If they are coming from the south, the ships announce the time of their arrival by means of radio contact with "Bolinflot", Stalin, as soon as they reach abeam of Cape Kaliakra. At Kaliakra, a Bulgarian pilot boards the ship, although he does not necessarily accompany it as far as Stalin. The pilot is not accompanied by guards or other persons.
3. The route to the port of Stalin is not that shown in the nautical charts or in the "Nemedri", but the following, using as point of reference the lighthouse on the Stalin breakwater:
 - a. 79 degrees true, for four miles;
 - b. 42 degrees true, for seven miles;
 - c. 22 degrees true, for 5.2 miles;
 - d. 90 degrees true, for 10 miles; and
 - e. 111 degrees true for 5.6 miles (Kaliakra).
4. Authorization to enter the port of Stalin is given to the ship by means of a signal placed at halfmast on the breakwater, after the ship has raised the conventional international signals. Following entrance into the port, a stop is made for the medical visit after which the ship is docked and the maritime, customs, and police authorities board the ship. The crew is then called on deck, the crew lists are examined and the police, accompanied by a delegate from the crew, check very thoroughly the

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quarters, personal belongings, baggage, etc. of the crew.

5. The crews are free to go ashore until 11 p.m. and are issued a special permit which is made up of three parts: one portion is detached and given to the seaman who shows it at the exit of the port area where the guard takes this document and gives him in return another paper which is replaced by the first document upon the return of the seaman into the port area. No personal search is made of the seaman either upon his exit or entrance to the port area. By means of another permit, the seamen are also allowed to receive friends of theirs aboard ship.
6. In the city of Stalin, the population is suspicious, but does not however avoid contact with transient seamen. On the contrary, a considerable amount of black market trade is carried out, particularly involving articles of clothing, payment being made in leva, although sometimes gold currency (Napoleons) is used. The articles which are in greatest demand in this black market are women's stockings, nylon lingerie, belts, watches, etc. A pair of nylon stockings sells for three gold Napoleons. The exchange rate of the U.S. dollar which is officially approximately seven leva, reaches 40 leva on the black market.
7. The population, which accepts its fate rather passively, founds its future hopes on the consequences of German rearmament
8. Supplying of the ships is handled by special officers and the prices are exactly half of those officially in force on the local market.
9. It is reported that Soviet ships also undergo the same detailed checks,-- formalities from which they were exempted two years ago.
10. A radio beacon with similar characteristics to the one at Constanta has recently gone into operation at Cape Kaliakra and broadcasts signals every 20 minutes, starting on the hour.

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